

Department of Education
& Skills
Finance Unit
Marlborough St,
Dublin 1



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Aonad Airgeadais
Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ref No: FOI/2016/466

10th January 2017

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information request dated 08th December, 2016, seeking:

"Bi-lateral meetings with the Minister for Finance and/or Minister for Public Expenditure relating to Budget 2017".

The Budget is the result of negotiations and deliberations between this Department and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform both at Ministerial and Official level as part of the Estimates process. The result of these negotiations ultimately ends in a Government Decision on the overall Budget for each year. As in all negotiations certain positions are adopted by both parties and disclosure of these positions could compromise this Department's attempts to maximise funding in subsequent years.

Accordingly, I am part-releasing the relevant documentation you are seeking. The relevant documents covered by your request include:

- a) Email from the Secretary General in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills dated 21st July, 2016.

- b) Letter from the Secretary General in the Department of Education & Skills to the Secretary General in the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform dated 12 September, 2016; (Partially redacted)
- c) Annex 1 – 3; accompanying documentation to letter dated 12 September, 2016 (Fully redacted)
- d) Letter from the Secretary General in the Department of Education & Skills to the Secretary General in the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform dated 14 September, 2016; (Partially redacted)
- e) Minutes of bilateral meeting with the Minister of Education and Skills and the Minister of Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on 19 September 2016.
- f) Minutes of bilateral meeting with the Minister of Education and Skills and the Minister of Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on 30 September 2016

Certain information contained in b) the letter from the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills dated 12 September, c) Annex 1 -3 and d) the letter from the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills dated 14 September is being redacted in accordance with Sections 29 (1) (a) of the FOI Act:

Section 29 (1) (a) if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes:

"If the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of a public body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes)"

This decision was made on 10th January 2017.

~~If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your request then you are entitled to~~ seek an internal review under Section 21 of the FOI Act 2014. The internal review will be conducted by an officer of a higher grade than that of the officer who made the initial decision regarding your request. You must submit your request within 20 working days from the date of the decision notification. The fee for the internal review is €30.

In the event that you wish to make an application for an internal review of your initial request, you may do so by writing to:

Freedom of Information Unit;
Department of Education & Skills,
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Or by emailing foi@education.gov.ie

Yours sincerely,

Edel O'Meara
Higher Executive Officer
Finance Unit.